

School. Tilsen became an important advisor on the Hudson proposal to Bieraugel, as well as to his good friend, Sen. Paul Wellstone (D-Minn.), whom Tilsen advised to oppose the application.

The press covered the casino opponents' July 20 meeting with Gov. Thompson, and Bieraugel and her supporters believed that it went well. She recalls the Governor telling the group that "[w]ith this opposition, you have nothing to worry about," and she understood him to be opposed to the Hudson casino proposal.⁸⁰ When interviewed by OIC investigators, Gov. Thompson recalled that he probably told the group that if the local people were not for the casino, then he would oppose it.

After the meeting with the Governor, the group named itself "A Better Future for Hudson" and held regular meetings at a local business. The group amassed a war chest of \$15,000 to \$20,000, funded by the local businesses. Bieraugel said she turned down offers of assistance from the St. Croix tribe and one of its lobbyists.⁸¹ Bieraugel testified that no one outside the City of Hudson had assisted in the opposition efforts. These monies were spent on ads opposing the Hudson application, and postage for mailings. The group solicited letters opposing the casino proposal from such groups as a nearby YMCA camp and a local church.

⁸⁰OIC Interview of Nancy Bieraugel, Oct. 7, 1998, at 4 (hereinafter "OIC Bieraugel Int.").

⁸¹Bieraugel testified in the Grand Jury that she vaguely recalled Ann Jablonski, a lobbyist for the St. Croix tribe, making a general offer of assistance. Jablonski also later drafted a letter for Bieraugel, which Bieraugel declined to use. The St. Croix Chairman offered to pay Bieraugel's airfare for a trip to Washington to attend the April 28, 1995, meeting at the DNC. Although Bieraugel initially was inclined to accept, upon reflection she decided to reject the offer.